

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03104 271711Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 271524Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8146
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T JIDDA 3104

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, SA, SO, UR
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING SOMALIA

REF: STATE 88966

1. DCM INFORMED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AL MANSOURI APRIL 27 OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS PARA 3 REFTEL. MANSOURI SAID SAG LOOKED FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT ON HORN OF AFRICA WITH USG OFFICIALS. IF OFFICIAL OR OFFICIALS COULD COME IN EARLY MAY, DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD BE ARRANGED DESPITE CELEBRATIONS THAT HE EXPECTED WOULD FOLLOW KING KHALID'S RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA ON APRIL 30. HE ASKED WE KEEP IN MIND THAT PRINCE SAUD WOULD BE IN LIBYA FROM MAY 10-12 FOR THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE. PRINCE SAUD, FURTHERMORE, WOULD PROBABLY TRAVEL TO THE UNITED

SECRET

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03104 271711Z

STATES IN ADVANCE OF CROWN PRINCE FAHD, AND SO WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON AROUND THE THIRD WEEK OF MAY. MANSOURI FELT THAT IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO DISCUSS SOMALIA WITH CROWN PRINCE THEN, IT COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED.

2. MANSOURI SAID THAT HE HAD TRAVELED WITH PRINCE SAUDI TO SOMALIA AND HAD COME AWAY WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT SOMALIA WAS INDEED

PREPARED TO REVERSE ITS PRO-SOVIET POSITIONS. SOMALI DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE RUSSIANS WAS DUE NOT TO ANY PROBLEMS IN ARMS SUPPLY, BUT BECAUSE OF SOMALI OBJECTIONS TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. SOMALI FOREIGN POLICY WAS DOMINATED BY ONE CONSIDERATION: ETHIOPIA. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO FAVOR SOMALIA WITH MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND TO DISFAVOR ETHIOPIA IN THESE CATEGORIES, SOMALIA WOULD BE MORE OR LESS PRO-AMERICAN. MANSOURI SAID HE THOUGHT THE SOMALIS WOULD EVEN BE PREPARED TO GIVE US MILITARY FACILITIES IF OUR POSITION ON ETHIOPIA WAS SUFFICIENTLY "CORRECT". (MANSOURI WAS AGAIN REFERRED TO PARA 3. REFTEL).

3. MANSOURI SAID THAT SOMALIA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. DCM REPLIED THAT USG MIGHT BE THINKING MORE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND THAT IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED OUR POLICY REVIEW OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.

4. WITH REGARD TO OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, MANSOURI SAID SAG WAS SUPPORTING SOMALIA POLITICALLY. IT HAD ALSO DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE SOMALIA ECONOMIC AID, BUT THE SPECIFICS OF SUCH A PROGRAM HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. SAG HAD DECIDED TO SEND AMBASSADORS TO MOGADISCIO, ETHIOPIA, AS WELL AS DJIBOUTI: WHEN THESE WERE IN PLACE, IT SHOULD BE MORE EASY FOR SAG TO WORK OUT A COORDINATED POLICY TOWARD THE HORN OF AFRICA.
PORTER

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